

MTSU Strategic Plan 2035
Annual Progress Report

Priority 2 Strengthen the community so all learners and workers thrive.
Strategy 2.2 Support wellness, belonging, and engagement.
Initiative 2.2.1 Expand and promote comprehensive orientation and ongoing support systems for our diverse community of students, faculty, and staff.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Increase intentional in-person interactions to create a better-connected campus through programming that links students with faculty and staff.	August 2025	May 2026 – Ongoing for Expansion of CP events.	Tracking resource utilization Create surveys or interactions to track and capture knowledge retention - Progress under Initiative 2.2.1 demonstrates meaningful advancement toward improving early student connection, engagement, and sense of belonging through intentional onboarding and engagement strategies. Expansion of engagement through connection point events - Efforts prioritized improved tracking of resource utilization, participation, and learning outcomes, including the development of surveys and interaction-based assessment tools to capture knowledge, retention and engagement quality. - While no expansion of Connection Point events occurred during this reporting cycle, the enhanced assessment infrastructure directly supports the Strategic Plan’s call for intentional, data informed engagement efforts and positions the institution to make more strategic decisions regarding future investments in connection-based programming.	- Efforts this year focused on increased tracking and data collection to strengthen program assessment. - Programs were evaluated using a newly created standardized rubric to ensure consistent and comparable review.
Analyze our student orientation program to make sure it is enriching and holistic.	August 2025	(revised) October 2026	Engagement Metrics, aiming for a target range or engagement, for example, 85% Attendance-to-enrollment conversion among students who attend orientation is 96%.	A survey will be administered to orientation attendees to assess engagement, identify content gaps, and gather feedback on

			Revamp and restructure orientation (New to Blue) – participation rate • The review and restructuring of the New to Blue orientation program confirmed that orientation remains a high impact intervention, with 96% of students who attend orientation enrolling, indicating strong alignment between orientation participation and institutional yield goals. While overall participation (approximately 40% of new students) indicates an opportunity for growth, the outcome data validate the effectiveness of the experience for those who engage. • To ensure inclusivity across student modalities, the online portion of orientation was transitioned to Canvas, intentionally introducing students—particularly online and remote learners—to the institution’s primary learning platform before arrival. This shift advances Strategy 2.2 by supporting early familiarity with institutional systems, reducing barriers to engagement, and laying the groundwork for ongoing connection and support beyond initial orientation. Expand the admitted student day – participation rate and yield • Expansion of Admitted Student Day further supports this initiative by strengthening pre-enrollment engagement and connection. Participation increased significantly, with 2,168 students registered and 1,901 attending, demonstrating strong conversion from registration to attendance and reinforcing the role of in person engagement in building student commitment and belonging prior to matriculation. • Consistent with Strategy 2.2’s emphasis on meaningful engagement and connection, the University focused this year on strengthening assessment and accountability related to in person engagement rather than expanding programming volume. A standardized evaluation rubric was developed and implemented to	what additional information or experiences would better prepare students, including which aspects of orientation were most beneficial. • Need to update end date to be in line with the orientation calendar. October of each academic year should be proper to allow for orientation to complete, analyze data and implement new strategies for the following year.
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			ensure consistent, comparable review of programs designed to foster student, faculty, and staff interaction.	
Develop and implement a plan to increase intentional interactions for online and remote students to create a better-connected campus.	August 2025	Ongoing	Track and report engagement of online and remote students Utilization of D2L and other platforms to connect students with programs • The online portion of orientation was moved to Canvas to provide new students with early exposure to the platform and hands-on experience using online orientation materials before arriving on campus. • This approach supports increased engagement of online and remote students through D2L/Canvas and other digital platforms while laying groundwork for future reporting and program expansion. Creation of programs on campus proper for students and their families • Recognizing the growing population of online and remote learners, the University advanced intentional engagement strategies aligned with Strategy 2.2's focus on inclusion and belonging for all learners. A key milestone was the transition of online orientation content to Canvas, enabling students to interact with institutional platforms, resources, and engagement opportunities prior to arriving on campus. • This action supports the Strategic Plan by reducing modality-based engagement gaps, improving digital readiness, and establishing mechanisms to track and report engagement of online and remote students over time. Leveraging Canvas/D2L and other digital platforms provides a scalable foundation for future virtual engagement initiatives, while also supporting hybrid opportunities that connect online learners to on campus programs and family inclusive events.	

Initiative 2.2.2 Update and add new housing and support space options to facilitate engagement in campus life.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Educate the campus on P3 (private public partnership) housing process.	August 2025	May 2026	Monthly or Bi-annual updates on progress of P3 project to the campus community/stakeholders - Progress under Initiative 2.2.2 reflects strong alignment with Strategy 2.2 through transparent communication, intentional planning, and inclusion of student voice in housing related decisions. The University successfully educated the campus on the P3 (public private partnership) housing process through Sidelines communications, presentations, focus groups, and Student Government Association engagement. - This action is complete and directly supports institutional transparency and shared understanding of major campus initiatives.	Information related to the P3 housing process was shared through Sidelines communications, Student Government Association (SGA) engagement, focus groups, and campus presentations.
Explore additional opportunities for housing expansion on campus with intentional inclusion of student voice.	August 2025	May 2026	Consistent assessment of housing market Plan for housing and expansion Expand on surveys and assessments offered to students in residential life and housing - In parallel, the University conducted ongoing housing market assessments and advanced development of a Campus Housing Master Plan, incorporating student input through surveys and focus groups with on campus and off campus students across class years. - Institutional work related to analysis and engagement has been completed, and the University is currently awaiting delivery of the finalized master plan from the external vendor. These efforts align with Strategy 2.2 by ensuring that future housing decisions support engagement, belonging, and student needs.	A comprehensive Housing Master Plan has been developed and is currently awaiting delivery of the final product from the external vendor.

Initiative 2.2.3 Ensure dynamic and inclusive programming and services to meet the needs of residential and non-residential students.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Analyze our current co-curricular programming and academic support services.	August 2025	May 2026	Completion of gap analysis. - Under Initiative 2.2.3, the University conducted a comprehensive analysis of current cocurricular programming and academic support services with the goal of completing a gap analysis. Using rubric based evaluations and cross unit review, this work will examine which student populations and needs may not be fully served, including areas such as mental health, wellness, and access to support services. - Student voice was intentionally incorporated through engagement with the Student Government Association, ensuring that student perspectives informed identification of service gaps and improvement opportunities. Findings from this analysis informed the implementation of a revised programming model within campus housing, strengthening alignment between residential programming, student needs, and engagement goals.	
Develop a holistic programming model that supports the co-curricular experiences for students.	August 2025	Ongoing	Completion of task - Building on this assessment work, the University has identified the need to develop a holistic cocurricular programming model that will intentionally integrate academic and cocurricular activities. - Discussion occurred to develop a holistic programming model intentionally incorporating academic co-curricular activities and programs. - Findings from program evaluations and assessment efforts are being used to inform discussions	- In alignment with the Strategic Plan's emphasis on coordinated, inclusive experiences that support learning, development, and belonging, the University is committed to initiating work on this model in the coming years. - This effort will ensure that future cocurricular programming is designed to complement academic objectives and foster a more unified approach to student engagement.